

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

Submitted herewith please find 3 replacement drawing sheet in compliance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.84. The Examiner is respectfully requested to acknowledge receipt of these drawings. The submitted drawings are intended to replace the drawings previously submitted on April 19, 2004.

Attachment: Three Replacement Drawing Sheets (FIGS. 1-3)

REMARKS

I. Formal Matters

Claims 1-3, 7-22 and 24-29 are pending in the present Application. By this Amendment, Applicants hereby amend claims 1-3, 10-12, 18, 21 and 25-29 for clarity and precision of language. By this Amendment Applicants also cancel claims 4, 5 and 6 without prejudice.

Applicants thank the Examiner for the courteous telephonic Interview on January 30, 2008. An Examiner's Interview Summary Record (PTO-413) was provided to the Applicants. The PTO-413 requires Applicants to file a Statement of Substance of the Interview. The Statement of Substance of the Interview is as follows:

Applicants' representative contacted the Examiner with regard to the rejection of certain claims, the arguments for which were presented in the previous Amendment. In particular, as set forth in the Office Action of December 28, 2007, certain features of the claims were not given weight as intended use limitations. However, Applicant's representative noted that these features further defined the structural limitations of the claims, and as such, should have been considered. Upon further consideration, the Examiner agreed that claims 4-6, 19, 25 and 27 should have been deemed allowable. Additionally, the Examiner indicated that claims 21 and 29 would be allowable if amended to clarify the specific surface of the guide block that the claim refers to.

II. Objection to the Drawings

Applicants submit replacement drawings illustrating the "chamfered portion" as requested by the Examiner. The Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the objection.

III. Objection to the Specification

The Examiner has objected to the Specification of the present Application based on some informalities found throughout the claims. Applicants have amended the claims as requested by the Examiner, and respectfully request for the objection to be withdrawn.

IV. Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claims 1-22, 24, 25 and 29 are rejected by the Examiner under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as allegedly being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicant regards as invention. Applicants have amended the claims and as such, respectfully assert that this rejection is now moot.

V. Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-6, 13-15, 19-22, 24 and 26-29 are rejected by the Examiner under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by Biskeborn et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,905,613).

With respect to independent claim 1, this claim has been amended to include the features of dependent claim 4. During the Interview of January 30, 2008, the Examiner agreed that claim 4 overcomes the cited art of record. Specifically, with respect to features of claim 4, which have been added into claim 1, the Examiner agreed that Biskeborn does not teach, or even suggest, “a wrap angle θ_1 between said sliding surface of said recording head and a plane surface formed by the edge of said servo signal recording head and said outer edge of said guide block is in a range of 1.0 to 6.0 degrees.”

Instead, the angle disclosed by the Examiner is, at most, based on the flat surface 131 and the inner edge of the alleged guide block (not labeled). During the Interview, the Examiner agreed with this interpretation and indicated that claim 4 would be deemed allowable.

With respect to independent claims 2 and 3, these claims have been amended to include the features of claims 5 and 6 respectively. As such, Applicants respectfully assert that claims 2 and 3 are in condition for allowance for reasons analogous to those recited with respect to claim 1.

With regard to claims 13-15, these claims depend from independent claims 1, 2 and 3 respectively. As such, Applicants respectfully assert that these claims are allowable at least by virtue of their respective dependencies.

With respect to claim 19, Applicants respectfully assert that Biskeborn fails to disclose, or even suggest "the magnetic tape com[ing] into contact with only the outer edge of the guide block."

This limitation was discussed during the Interview of January 30, 2008. As a result of the Interview, the Examiner agreed that the above-recited limitation affects the relative position of the guide block to the recording head, and as such, should be accorded patentable weight. For at least this reason, the Examiner indicated that claim 19 would be deemed allowable.

With respect to dependent claim 20, Applicants respectfully assert that this claim is allowable at least by virtue of its dependency from claim 1.

With respect to claim 21, as set forth above, the Examiner indicated that this claim would be deemed allowable in his next communication.

With respect to dependent claims 22 and 24, Applicants respectfully assert that these claims are allowable at least by virtue of their dependency from claim 1.

With respect to claim 26, Applicants respectfully assert that Biskeborn does not disclose, or even suggest, “the recording head include[ing] a planar surface as the sliding surface ...

wherein an uppermost surface of the guide block is substantially parallel to the planar sliding surface.”

For support, the Examiner is directed to FIG. 14 of Biskeborn, wherein the Examiner previously indicated that element 131 corresponds to the sliding surface, and the “unlabeled elements to the left and right of the head” correspond to the guide block. (See Office Action, Pages 8-9).

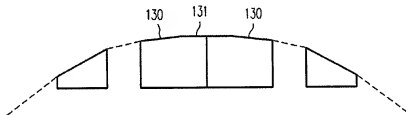


FIG. 14

With respect to claim 27, as discussed above, the Examiner has indicated that this claim would be deemed allowable in its present form.

With respect to claim 28, Applicants respectfully assert that this claim is allowable at least by virtue of its dependency from claim 26.

With respect to claim 29, as set forth above, the Examiner indicated that, pending an amendment to clarify the scope, this claim would be deemed allowable in his next

communication. Applicants have amended this claim as requested by the Examiner, and as such, respectfully request for this rejection to be withdrawn.

The Examiner has also rejected claim 25 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by Bischoff et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,237,476).

However, during the Interview of January 30, 2008, the Examiner indicated that claim 25 will be allowable, if amended to clarify the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. Applicants have amended this claim as requested by the Examiner, and as such, respectfully request for this rejection to be withdrawn.

VI. Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

The Examiner has rejected claims 7-12 and 16-18 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Biskeborn.

With respect to claims 7, 10 and 16, these claims depend from claim 1, while claims 8, 11 and 17 depend from claim 2 and claims 9, 12 and 18 depend from claim 3. As such, Applicants respectfully assert that claims 7-12 and 16-18 are patentable at least by virtue of their respective dependencies.

VII. Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

This Application is being filed via the USPTO Electronic Filing System (EFS). Applicants herewith petition the Director of the USPTO to extend the time for reply to the above-identified Office Action for an appropriate length of time if necessary. Any fee due under 37 U.S.C. § 1.17(a) is being paid via the USPTO Electronic Filing System (EFS). The USPTO is also directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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